



Freemasonry & the Enlightenment: Architecture, Symbols, and Influences

by James Stevens Curl

This wide-ranging, thoughtful, thorough, and beautifully illustrated study of Freemasonry's influence on Western culture puts into context a movement that has left a significant legacy. Professor Curl's previous book on *The Art and Architecture of Freemasonry* (1991) was hailed not only as an immensely useful (and sane) introduction to a field often fraught with speculative sensationalism, but as a mine of information and one of the most original contributions towards a greater understanding of the Enlightenment published in recent times.

Now, building on his earlier work, Curl has vastly expanded his investigations, showing how aspects of Freemasonic ideas have permeated the design of buildings, parks, gardens, and cemeteries, as well as other art-forms, from literature to the performing arts. Some of Mozart's music has close connections with the Craft, and many of the stage-sets associated with his operas are reproduced, together with very detailed captions. The Glossary explains some of the complex ideas and iconography of Freemasonry, and the extensive Bibliography contains an enormous amount of material to stimulate further research, not least into the poisonous reactions to the Craft by religious bigots and biased political movements.

Professor James Stevens Curl has held Chairs in Architectural History at two universities, has twice been Visiting Fellow at Peterhouse, University of Cambridge, is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and is a Fellow of the Societies of Antiquaries of London and of Scotland. Now in his eighth decade, he has established an international reputation for impeccable scholarship, lucidity of style, and thorough investigations in little-charted waters. His output over the last forty years includes *Georgian Architecture: The British Isles 1714-1830* (2011), *Spas, Wells, & Pleasure-Gardens of London* (2010), *Victorian Architecture: Diversity & Invention* (2007), *The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture* (2006), *The Victorian Celebration of Death* (2004), and *Classical Architecture* (2003).

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